Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 2, 3 and 10-16 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 5, 8 and 9 and add Claim 17 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A noncontact tonometer comprising:

fluid blowing means for blowing fluid onto a cornea to deform the cornea;

measuring-light projecting means for projecting measuring light onto the cornea;

corneal deformation detecting means for detecting the measuring light reflected by the cornea when the cornea is deformed by the fluid so as to have a predetermined curvature radius;

calculating means for calculating intraocular pressure on the basis of the detection by the corneal deformation detecting means;

control means for controlling a measuring operation of the noncontact tonometer;

predetermined intraocular-pressure setting means capable of setting at least a first predetermined intraocular pressure and a second predetermined intraocular pressure that is higher than the first predetermined intraocular pressure; and

comparing means for comparing the magnitude of the intraocular pressure obtained by the calculating means with the first and second predetermined intraocular ~~pressure~~ pressures,

wherein the control means gives a warning when the intraocular pressure obtained by the calculating means is lower than the first predetermined intraocular pressure or higher than the second predetermined intraocular pressure ~~varies the measuring operation of the noncontact tonometer depending on the comparison by the comparing means~~.

Claims 2 and 3. (Canceled).

4. (Original) A noncontact tonometer according to Claim 1, wherein the control means performs a continuous measuring operation and stops the continuous measuring operation depending on the comparison by the comparing means.

5. (Currently Amended) A noncontact tonometer according to Claim 1, wherein the control means adds a predetermined number of measurements depending on the comparison by the comparing means[[;]].

6. (Original) A noncontact tonometer according to Claim 1, wherein the control means comprises notifying means for notifying an operator of the comparison by the comparing means.

7. (Original) A noncontact tonometer according to Claim 1, wherein the fluid blowing means comprises fluid control means for controlling the force of the fluid blown onto the cornea for varying the force of the blown fluid depending on the comparison by the comparing means.

8. (Currently Amended) A noncontact tonometer according to Claim 1, wherein the measuring operation ~~comprises~~ utilizes pupil-position sensing means for alignment, corneal bright-point detection means for close alignment, a solenoid for driving, and the corneal deformation detecting means.

9. (Currently Amended) A noncontact tonometer according to Claim 1, wherein the measuring operation ~~comprises~~ utilizes pupil-position sensing means for alignment, corneal bright-point detection means for close alignment, a solenoid for driving, the corneal deformation ~~detection~~ detecting means, and notifying means for notifying the operator of the comparison by the comparing means.

Claims 10-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A noncontact tonometer comprising:

fluid blowing means for blowing fluid onto a cornea to deform the cornea;

measuring-light projecting means for projecting measuring light onto the cornea;

corneal deformation detecting means for detecting the measuring light reflected by the cornea when the cornea is deformed by the fluid so as to have a predetermined curvature radius;

calculating means for calculating intraocular pressure on the basis of the detection by the corneal deformation detecting means;

control means for controlling a measuring operation of the noncontact tonometer so as to measure right and left eyes sequentially a predetermined number of times respectively;

predetermined intraocular-pressure setting means capable of setting at least a first predetermined intraocular pressure and a second predetermined intraocular pressure that is higher than the first predetermined intraocular pressure; and

comparing means for comparing the magnitude of the intraocular pressure obtained by the calculating means with the first and second predetermined intraocular pressures,

wherein the control means stops the measuring operation after the completion of the predetermined number of measurements of the eyes under measurement when the intraocular pressure obtained by the calculating means is lower than the first predetermined intraocular pressure or higher than the second predetermined intraocular pressure.